



MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SELF-MUTILATIVE PRECAUTIONS

Effective Date: November 7, 2003

Policy #: TX-13

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- I. PURPOSE:** To outline guidelines for the prevention of self-inflicted injury by self-mutilative patients.
- II. POLICY:** Hospital staff will be alert to self-mutilative potential in patients. Specific self-mutilative precautions will be implemented with patients who are threatening, or engaging in deliberate self-harm behaviors without suicidal intent.
- III. DEFINITIONS:** None
- IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**
 - A. Direct Care Staff: Observe, assess, report, search for contraband, and document.
 - B. Practitioner (attending physician or advanced practice registered nurse): Assess, evaluate, order and discontinue precautions, and document.
- V. PROCEDURE:**
 - A. Staff Responsibilities
 - 1. Patients will be assessed for risk of self-mutilative behaviors.
 - 2. A licensed nurse will then obtain an order for self-mutilative precautions from the practitioner.
 - 3. The practitioner will evaluate a patient placed on self-mutilative precautions within 24 hours and document the results of this assessment in the Progress Notes.
 - 4. Staff will make visual contact with the patient every 15 minutes or as otherwise specified in the practitioner's order
 - 5. Staff will conduct a patient search for contraband each shift. However, it is not necessary to awaken a sleeping patient to conduct this search. See Contraband and Searches Policy for definition of contraband and procedural details.

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- ## B. Patient Responsibilities

- ## VI. REFERENCES: Contraband and Searches Policy

VII. COLLABORATED WITH: Medical Director, Director of Quality Improvement

VIII. RESCISSIONS: #TX-13, *Self-Mutilative Precautions* dated February 14, 2000; H.O.P.P. #13-09/002M.B.070693, *Self-Mutilative Precautions* dated July 1993.

IX. DISTRIBUTION: All hospital policy manuals.

X. REVIEW AND REISSUE DATE: November 2006

XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: Director of Nursing Services

XII. ATTACHMENTS: None

_____/_____/_____
Ed Amberg Date
Hospital Administrator

_____/_____/_____
Thomas Gray, MD Date
Medical Director